Welcome to the Journal of Humanistic Mathematics

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Welcome to the first issue of the Journal of Humanistic Mathematics! This Journal is in many ways a successor to the Humanistic Mathematics Network Journal (1987-2004), created and edited by Alvin White. As with HMNJ, our goal is to create a platform for both formal and informal inquiries about mathematics as a human endeavor. Historical, pedagogical, psychological, and sociological aspects of mathematics all form different facets of humanistic mathematics. There are several journals devoted to studying these various aspects through disciplinary approaches; we hope with this Journal to provide a (multidisciplinary / interdisciplinary / transdisciplinary) venue for work that targets a wider mathematical community. Our intention is to encourage communication and discussion across the disciplinary boundaries. To this end, we will publish peer-reviewed research and survey articles, editor-reviewed works that reflect personal explorations of what it means to do mathematics or to be a mathematician, articles on mathematics in popular culture, and reviews of books which focus on humanistic aspects of mathematics. Finally, we welcome creative works (fiction, poetry, visual arts) that display in more ways than one the humanistic dimensions of mathematics.

This inaugural issue contains a good representative sample. Refereed papers on mathematical aesthetics and mathematical proof appear, as well as a personal essay written by a mathematician who participated in Operation Iraqi Freedom. In addition, there are essays that discuss teaching mathematics as a liberal arts course, difficulties faced by young students of mathematics, the concept of entropy as applied to the social sciences, and the poetic nature of mathematics. There is also a review of the graphic novel *Logicomix*, based on the experiences of Bertrand Russell. Finally, we have three amazing poems. Please enjoy our first issue!